

**ENTERTAINMENT  
 BRIEFS**

**Jackson marries  
 is child's mother**

LONDON (AP) — Did Michael Jackson do it or didn't he? His new father-in-law says the pop star's baby was conceived by artificial insemination, not the old-fashioned way.

Jackson was married last week to nurse Debbie Rowe, who is six months' pregnant with his child.

Gordon Rowe, 67, who lives in Cyprus, said he was shocked when his daughter called to say she was expecting Jackson's baby.

"I just couldn't help myself. I said, 'Isn't this the same man who was accused of child abuse?'" Rowe told the London tabloid News of the World.

He added that after a silence his daughter said, "Come on, it's not so bad. We had the child by artificial insemination."

"I said, 'Debbie, why artificial insemination? Isn't he capable of fathering a child like anyone else?'"

"She laughed and said, 'Michael doesn't do anything like anyone else.'"

**Crystal returns  
 as Oscar's host**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — After shying away from the Oscars for two years, Billy Crystal is coming back for another turn as host.

"Once Barry Scheck turned it down, I had a feeling they'd come to me," Crystal said, referring to one of O.J. Simpson's lawyers. "Send any Oscar jokes to my web site at www.whys-theshowsolong.com."

The March 24 show will be Crystal's fifth stint as Oscars host. He won Emmys in 1991 and 1992 for his writing of the Oscar show, and received Emmy nominations for his performances in 1991, 1992 and 1993.

**Paparazzi duped  
 by illegal photos**

BURBANK, Calif. (AP) — Arnold Schwarzenegger played two roles on the set of "Batman and Robin" — in character as Mr. Freeze and also as bait in a trap set for paparazzi.

Warner Bros. executives were furious when unauthorized footage of George Clooney as the Caped Crusader aired on TV's *Inside Edition*.

Studio officials spotted a photographer in unedited footage from the set and again on Oct. 19. The photographer was arrested after he came back for more during Schwarzenegger's first day of shooting.

Security guards said they called police after watching the man snap photos with a tiny camera allegedly smuggled in inside his sock.

Michael Carri and two companions were arrested. They pleaded innocent to charges including trespassing, burglary and carrying false identification.

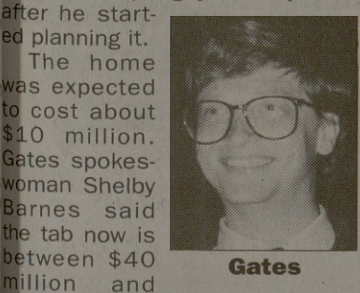
**Gates' posh home  
 almost completed**

MEDINA, Wash. (AP) — You'd better start shopping for that perfect housewarming gift. Microsoft chairman Bill Gates' home is finally due for completion in the spring, just 10 years after he started planning it.

The home was expected to cost about \$10 million. Gates spokeswoman Shelby Barnes said the tab now is between \$40 million and \$50 million. That's unfurnished.

The main house features an arcade, a 60-foot pool, a 20-seat theater, an indoor-outdoor spa, a lakeside pavilion and a basketball-racquetball court.

Outside, there is a 20-car underground garage, a \$1.4 million caretaker's residence and a guest cottage.



Gates

# Bleeding ... Pink



*Two-percenters take a stand as the non-traditionalists on campus, bleeding a lighter shade of maroon.*

BY APRIL TOWERY  
 THE BATTALION

Some Aggies have spent this month attending football games and Bonfire cut and stack. Others have treated November as any other month, and game days are simply days to catch up on sleeping and studying.

These non-participating students respond to howdys with hellos and refrain from marking the day they can finally whoop on their calendars. They are called two-percenters because of their lack of enthusiasm and desire to give the full 100 percent to Aggie tradition and spirit.

Junior environmental design major Keith Petersen defined two-percenters as "people who don't go out of their way to do all the Aggie things."

Petersen said he has been called a two-percenter because he doesn't participate in the Aggie traditions.

"Being a two-percenter is looked down upon by those who are gung ho about traditions," he said. "I didn't come here to wear a Corps uniform and boots and crap and stand up during a football game."

"I used to go to stack when I lived in a dorm, but now I have schoolwork to do on Fridays and Saturdays. I feel like I'm an Aggie but not necessarily an 'Ol' Army Ag.'"

Senior environmental design majors Christian Sheridan and Ryan Hitt said they agree the majority of the traditions are based around football.

"Two-percenters don't exist in the spring because there's no football," Sheridan said. "When you forget to take your hat off at a football game you've got this Jimbo Hillbilly just going nuts. I mean, if you're a homosexual, are you a two-percenter because that's not a tradition at A&M? Is someone going to actually assimilate us to go to a football game? I think they're two-percenters if they don't sympathize with us not wanting to watch football."

Hitt said although he does not attend every football game, Muster and Silver Taps, he does not consider himself a two-percenter because he has an Aggie ring.

"I'm here for school, not the traditions," he said. "I don't like standing in the sun. It's not worth that much to me. I'd rather watch the game at home on TV with my friends. If we had a hockey team instead of a football team maybe I would care."

Kristi Burleson, a senior civil engineering major, said she defines a two-percenter as someone whose main focus in school is not sports- or tradition-related.

"Football games aren't important to me," Burleson said. "As a two-percenter, my life is not based around the traditions."

"If you're a two-percenter and you participate somewhat, I can see people getting frustrated because you don't participate wholeheartedly. I respect the traditions. I'm not out there helping with Bonfire, but I don't look down upon the people who do."

Sandy Manczak, a sophomore general studies major, displays a Class of '99 tattoo

on her arm and greets callers with "howdy and gig 'em" on her answering machine. Manczak said she is probably considered a "gung ho" Aggie but does not look down upon the fellow Aggies who do not get as excited about the various traditions.

"Whether you learn the traditions and hold them dearly is your decision," she said. "If you do hold them dearly, that culture will be with you the rest of your life. To know that people would hold a Silver Taps for me if I died after I got my acceptance letter made me feel like a part of something. I wouldn't trade coming here for anything."

Some Aggies have publicly criticized students who cling to tradition. According to 1996 A&M graduate Rob Clark's column in the September/October issue of *SPY* magazine, "something is rotten in Aggieland."

"Where the foul stench originated, I'm not sure, but it reeks of ignorance, immaturity and conservatism. The good ol' boys still reign supreme down here — see the Corps of Cadets, our resident Gestapo — and the rest of us are left wondering why we didn't go to the University of Texas. ... They have 6th Street, and well, we have the Dixie Chicken."

Although the Dixie Chicken has become a way of life for some Aggies, being part of the A&M family is what attracted some students to this University.

John Urbin, a senior environmental design major, has participated as a student senator, a member of the College of Architecture student advisory council, Youth Fun Day counselor and Fish Camp counselor. Urbin said two-percenters may feel looked down upon because it is abnormal to come to A&M for financial or scholastic reasons and not realize the importance of the spirit of Aggieland.

"It's just like if you live in Dallas and hate the Cowboys," he said. "It's not the norm."

"I moved to Texas my junior year of high school and always planned to go back to college in Illinois, but once I visited A&M, I saw that it is like no other school. You can learn a lot and have a lot of fun. My parents and I recently saw a video in Rudder about A&M that literally gave me chills. I feel sorry for the two-percenters who don't feel like they're part of the extended family."

Senior English major Emily Sturgess transferred from Stephen F. Austin University and said she has attended some University-related activities but has been teased about being a two-percenter.

"I don't think my friends understand — they think it's odd or strange to not be 100 percent behind all the A&M traditions," she said.

"I enjoy a lot of the things that we do at A&M, but it doesn't dominate my life. I like A&M, but it's not my everyday focus. That may make me unique here, but that's just who I am."

*"As a two-percenter,  
 my life is not base around the traditions."*

Kristi Burleson  
 Senior civil engineering major

**two-percenter, n.** A Texas A&M student who does not partake in the various "red-ass" traditions involved with the University; An A&M student who does not greet fellow students with the phrase "Howdy;" an A&M student who does not bleed maroon; or an A&M student who does not live and die for the Aggie band, Bonfire or any other Fightin' Texas Aggie tradition.